

I. Remarks

As discussed at the interview, the claims are directed to novel nitrosated and/or nitrosylated cyclooxygenase 2 (COX-2) selective inhibitor compounds and compositions and methods of using these compositions for the treatment of indications for which current COX-2 inhibitors are known to be effective: treating or reducing inflammation, pain or fever; facilitating wound healing; treating or reversing renal and/or respiratory toxicity; and inhibiting platelet aggregation. During the interview, Applicants directed the Examiner to page 120, Table 1 of the Specification, which shows that six compounds, all encompassed by the compound of Formula (II), are COX-2 selective inhibitors. Applicants submit these amendments at the suggestion of the Examiner to further clarify the invention. Specifically, claim 59 has been amended to clarify the position of the hydrazone group on the Formula (II) compounds. Also, claims 61, 75 and 98 have been amended to clarify that the inflammation, pain or fever treated with the compositions of the invention result from elevated levels of COX-2.

Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments with the changes discussed at the telephone interview with the Examiner.

After entry of the amendment, claims 59-61, 64-66, 71-75, 78-80, 85-98, 101-103 and 108 to 116 are pending.

In order to further prosecution, claims 62, 63, 67-70, 76, 77, 81-84, 99, 100 and 104-107 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Applicants retain the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in future continuation or divisional applications.

Claim 59 has been editorially amended as follows:

(i) For clarity the definition of " $-X^2-Y^2-Z^2-$ when sides e and g are double bonds, and sides d and f are single bonds" has been moved from after the definition of the variable " a " (on page 4 of this amendment) to after the definition of " $A-B$ " (on page 2 of this amendment).

(ii) The phrase "as defined herein" has been deleted from the definitions of " R^2 and R^2 taken together"; and " R^2 and R^5 taken together".

(iii) The proviso has been amended to read "with the proviso that the compound of Formula (II) must contain one hydrazone group at position Y_2 ."

Claims 61, 75 and 98 have been amended to clarify that the inflammation, pain or fever results from elevated levels of COX-2.

No issues of new mater should arise and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 59-61, 64-66, 71-75, 78-80, 85-98, 101-103 and 108 to 116. Examiner Solola is encouraged to contact the undersigned concerning any questions about the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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